Rank in Human Development Index

*172. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 127th out of the 177 countries, for the second year in a row, on the Human Development Index of the United Nations;

(b) if so, what are the determinant norms, parameters and criteria laid down, for determining the index;

(c) what is the status of India, pertaining to each of the said norms, parameters and criteria, at present; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve Indian scenario regarding its position on the UN Human Development Index and the targets contemplated thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir, India rank 127 out of 177 countries, as per the Human Development Reports (HDR) 2004 and 2005, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These are independent estimates of UNDP using their own norms.

(b) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

(i) A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.

(ii) Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).

(iii) A decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (PPP US$).

Before calculating the HDI, an index needs to be created for each of these dimensions. To calculate these dimension indices—the life expectancy, education and GDP indices-minimum and maximum values are chosen for each underlying indicator. Performance in each dimension is expressed as a value between 0 and 1. The HDI is then calculated as a simple average of the dimension indices.

(c) The overall status of India as measured by the HDI is 0.602 out of a maximum value of 1. Of the three criteria comprising the HDI, India's position is 0.64 in the Life Expectancy Index, 0.61 in the Education Index and 0.56 in the GDP Index.

(d) The Government recognizes the importance of human development in development planning and in view of this the Tenth Plan has laid down specific monitorable targets for a few key indicators of human development along with the target for growth rate of GDP. These targets are considered as central to attainment of the objectives of Tenth Plan. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States have initiated a number of programmes to improve health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes. In order to improve literacy and universal enrolment, investment in education has been increased substantially both for the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and for universal coverage under the mid-day meal scheme. Similarly, in the health sector, there has been step up in investment with a new thrust on rural health (The National Rural Health Mission). In order to improve the level of living of the people, rapid economic growth with social justice is envisaged in the planning process. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—07) target a GDP growth rate of 8% per year. The emphasis is on agriculture development and on labour-intensive sectors, which would generate greater employment in the growth process. In addition, there are specially targeted anti-poverty programmes for the poor and disadvantaged groups. Improving delivery and governance are also receiving attention of the Government. These initiatives are expected to improve the various indicators used in the UN Human Development Index to provide the basic aspects of human development in the country.

Volunteers Training by Youth Organisations

*173. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some youth organizations to train the volunteers in the event of any disaster;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;